

# Indonesian Muhammadiyah: Politicized “Wahabi” To Corner Certain Islamic Groups



[AH34\_281017 AntoniusHerujiyanto\_USD\_Yk]

Trying not to complicate the situation due to the incidence of the arson attack on Muhammadiyah’s Taqwa mosque in Bireuen, Aceh [on 17 October), one of Muhammadiyah (the second largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia) chairs, cleric Fathurrahman Kamal, has said that the case is more about the local communities’ problems in dealing with different ways in expressing Islamic teachings (*furu’iyah*). So, for the goodness of the people, it would not be necessary to exaggerate the issue.

Mentioning that the attack had even been reported in certain areas as hoax, he needed to clarify that it was the initial construction (namely, the newly constructed pillars) of the mosque and the building next to the mosque construction which were set ablaze.

“So let the police investigate the incidence,” the cleric was quoted as saying by *hidayatullah.com* on Thursday (26 October).

According to him, the attack was a kind of terror action. However, the solution to the incidence had been inappropriately conducted.

He said that the spirit of brotherhood with having peaceful dialogues should have been exercised in finding the best solution to the incidence.

According to him, the local people in Bireuen do not seem to be used to facing with the Islamic teaching differences, or rather regarding differences as a kind of rivalry. Their making use of the term Wahabi [which has been stigmatized as roots of global terrorism] to call Muhammadiyah only suggests such an allegation, to corner their rival Islamic group.

The cleric also regretted that the issue of Wahabi had been politicized.

Source: Andi/CA,[hidayatullah.com/berita/nasional/read/2017/10/26/126561/muhammadiyah-akui-isu-wahabi-digunakan-sebagai-amunisi-mendiskreditkan-kelompok-lain.html](http://hidayatullah.com/berita/nasional/read/2017/10/26/126561/muhammadiyah-akui-isu-wahabi-digunakan-sebagai-amunisi-mendiskreditkan-kelompok-lain.html), “Muhammadiyah Akui Isu Wahabi Digunakan sebagai Amunisi Memojokkan Kelompok Lain (Muhammadiyah: wahabi issues used as tools to corner other Islamic groups)”, in *Indonesian*, 26 Oct 17.

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